



# PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission  
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Washington, D.C. 20554

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**DA 02-211**  
**Released: January 28, 2002**

## **COMMENTS REQUESTED ON DOMESTIC SECTION 214 APPLICATION FILED BY MUTUAL TELEPHONE COMPANY AND NORTHERN IOWA TELEPHONE COMPANY FOR TRANSFER OF CONTROL**

### **PLEADING CYCLE ESTABLISHED**

#### **CC Docket No. 02-1**

On December 31, 2001, Mutual Telephone Company ("Mutual") and Northern Iowa Telephone Company ("Northern Iowa") pursuant to section 214 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. § 214, and section 63.01 of the Commission's Rules, 47 C.F.R. § 63.01, filed an application for consent to transfer control to Mutual of domestic, interstate operations of Northern Iowa and its wholly-owned subsidiaries, Webb-Dickens Telephone Corporation ("Webb-Dickens") and Vernon Communications and TV, Inc. ("Vernon").<sup>1</sup> In connection with their proposed transaction, for Applicants have also filed applications for an international section 214 authorization and transfer of control applications for seven broadband PCS licenses and one commercial paging license.

Mutual has entered into an agreement with Northern Iowa to acquire all of the capital stock of Northern Iowa. As a result of the transaction, Northern Iowa will become a wholly-owned subsidiary of Mutual, and Webb-Dickens and Vernon will become indirect subsidiaries of Mutual.

There are four individual stockholders of Northern Iowa, and each of the four individuals has agreed to the transaction. The shareholders and their respective ownership percentages held are as follows: Bruce H. Vernon (35.77%); Jane A. Korver (35.75%); Ross K. Vernon (14.43%); and Velma J. Vernon (14.05%).

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<sup>1</sup> In connection with their proposed transaction, Applicants have also filed applications for an international section 214 authorization and transfer of control applications for seven broadband PCS licenses and one commercial paging license. See Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Assignment of Authorization and Transfer of Control Applications Accepted for Filing, Report No. 1051 (rel. Dec. 19, 2001) (File Nos. 0000694484 and 0000694473).

Mutual is an incumbent local exchange carrier that provides a wide array of communications services to the public in northwest Iowa. The services provided include local service, cellular, cable television, Internet, CENTREX, voicemail, and customer calling services.

Northern Iowa is also an incumbent local exchange carrier. Northern Iowa provides telecommunications services to the public in northern Iowa. The services provided include local service and cellular. Webb-Dickens is an incumbent local exchange carrier that provides telecommunications services to the public in northern Iowa. The services provided include local service and cellular. Vernon provides a variety of telecommunications services to the public in northern Iowa, including cable television and long distance.

Applicants assert that by granting this application, the Commission will serve the public interest, convenience, and necessity. Applicants state that this transaction will increase the efficiency in the operation of Northern Iowa and its subsidiaries and make these companies stronger competitors in the market for the provision of telecommunications services. As a consequence, they note, this transaction will improve telecommunications services to rural areas and small towns in Iowa by offering greater choices to a broader customer base. Applicants state that by combining the financial resources and managerial expertise of Mutual, Northern Iowa, and Webb-Dickens, the proposed transfer of control will create a stronger competitor that is better able to serve the public.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

The transfer of control request identified herein has been found, upon initial review, to be acceptable for filing. The Commission reserves the right to return any transfer of control application if, upon further examination, it is determined to be defective and not in conformance with the Commission's rules and policies. Interested parties may file petitions to deny within 30 days following the release of this Public Notice.<sup>2</sup> Final action will not be taken on the applications earlier than 31 days following the date of this Public Notice.<sup>3</sup>

All filings concerning any or all matters in this Public Notice should refer to **CC Docket No. 02-1**. An original and 4 copies of all pleadings, in accordance with Section 1.51(c) of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. § 1.51(c), must be filed with the Commission's Secretary, Magalie Roman Salas, 445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W., TW-B204, Washington, D.C. 20554. In addition, one copy of each pleading must be delivered to each of the following: (1) Qualex International, Portals II, 445 12th Street, S.W., Room CY-B402, Washington, D.C., 20554, telephone (202) 863-2893, facsimile (202) 863-2898; (2) Janice Myles, Common Carrier Bureau, 445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W., 5-

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<sup>2</sup> See 47 C.F.R. § 63.52(c).

<sup>3</sup> See 47 C.F.R. § 63.52(b).

B145, Washington, D.C. 20554; (3) Nandan Joshi, Office of General Counsel, 445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W., 8-A820, Washington, D.C. 20554; (4) William Dever, Common Carrier Bureau, 445 12 Street, S.W., 5-C266, Washington, D.C. 20554; and (5) John Branscome, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, 445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W., 2-C828 Washington D.C. 20554.

In addition to filing paper pleadings, parties may also file pleadings using the Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS). *See* Electronic Filing of Documents in Rulemaking Proceedings, 63 Fed. Reg. 24,121 (1998). Pleadings filed through the ECFS can be sent as an electronic file via the Internet to <http://www.fcc.gov/e-file/ecfs.html>. Generally, only one copy of an electronic submission must be filed. If multiple docket or rulemaking numbers appear in the caption of this proceeding, however, parties must transmit one electronic copy of the comments to each docket or rulemaking number. Parties may also submit an electronic pleading by Internet e-mail. To obtain filing instructions for e-mail pleadings, parties should send an e-mail to [ecfs@fcc.gov](mailto:ecfs@fcc.gov), and include the following words in the body of the message, "get form <your e-mail address>." A sample form and directions will be sent in reply.

This document may be purchased from the Commission's duplicating contractor, Qualex International, Portals II, 445 12th Street, S.W., Room CY-B402, Washington, D.C., 20554, telephone (202) 863-2893, facsimile (202) 863-2898, or via e-mail [qualexint@aol.com](mailto:qualexint@aol.com). In addition, the applications filed under Parts 22 and 24 of the Commission's rules are available electronically through the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau's Universal Licensing System, which may be accessed on the Commission's Internet site at <http://www.fcc.gov>.

For further information, please contact Tracey Wilson, at (202) 418-1394 or Bill Dever, Policy and Program Planning Division, Common Carrier Bureau at (202) 418-1578.